

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) An image processing device for emphasizing a specified luminance area of an image taken by an image sensor, wherein any plural luminance areas of the image are selected and sensor outputs corresponding to the selected luminance areas are emphasized by using an image sensor output characteristic conversion table to increase a contrast of each image portion in each of the selected luminance areas, and

wherein a light sensor circuit representing at least one unit pixel of the image sensor has a logarithmic output characteristic, the light sensor circuit comprising a MOS transistor for converting a current flowing in a photo diode into a voltage signal having a logarithmic characteristic in a weak inverse state and having a control means for discharging a remaining electric charge of a parasitic capacitor of the photo diode by preliminarily changing a drain voltage of the MOS transistor.

2. An image processing device as defined in claim 1, wherein an image sensor output of each luminance area other than the emphasized luminance areas is fixed to zero or a specified value.

3-5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) An image processing device as defined in claim [[3]] 1, wherein a light sensor circuit representing the at least one unit pixel of an image sensor has a shutter function.

7. (currently amended) An image processing method for emphasizing a specified luminance area of an image taken by an image sensor, comprising the steps of selecting any plural luminance areas of the image, and emphasizing the sensor outputs corresponding to the selected luminance areas by using an image sensor output characteristic conversion table to increase a contrast of each image portion in each of the selected luminance areas, and

wherein a light sensor circuit representing at least one unit pixel of the image sensor has a logarithmic output characteristic, the light sensor circuit comprising a MOS transistor for converting a current flowing in a photo diode into a voltage signal having a logarithmic characteristic in a weak inverse state and having a control means for discharging a remaining electric charge of a parasitic capacitor of the photo diode by preliminarily changing a drain voltage of the MOS transistor.

8. An image processing method as defined in claim 7, further comprising the step of setting an image sensor output of each luminance area other than the emphasized luminance areas to zero or a specified value.

9 – 11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) An image processing method as defined in claim ~~[[9]]~~ 7, wherein a light sensor circuit representing the at least one unit pixel of the image sensor has a shutter function.